GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
AGRICULTURE
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3601
ANSWERED ON:16.08.2000
DECLINE IN FERTILITY OF LAND
MANSINH PATEL

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have conducted any survey to ascertain the total measurement of land in hectares out of the total land of which fertility has deteriorated; and

(b) if so, the measures taken to retain the fertility of land?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SBPBK SATYANARAYANA RAO)

(a) Yes Sir. As per the surveys conducted by the Indian Council of Agricultural Research about 187.7 m.ha. of the total land in the country is suffering from various kinds of degradation resulting in loss of soil fertility.

(b) Generally, the fertility of soils improves with improvement in moisture availability in the soil. The Department of Agriculture & Cooperation is advocating soil and water conservation measures and Integrated Nutrient Management with greater recycling of organic resources to build up soil fertility.

The Department of Agriculture & Cooperation is implementing various land based programmes namely:

i) Soil Conservation in the catchments of River Valley Projects (RVP) and Flood Prone Rivers (FPR)
ii) National Watershed Development Project in Rainfed Areas
iii) Watershed Development Project in Shifting Cultivation Areas and
iv) Reclamation of Alkali Soils, to minimise soil erosion/land degradation which ultimately result into enhanced fertility/productivity in the rainfed/catchment areas of the country. In addition to the above, the State Government implement their own Plan Schemes for retaining/improving fertility of such areas in their States.